

C. The Story of James Earl Ray

1. Chronology of Ray's Activities On and After April 23, 1967

On Sunday, the 23rd of April 1967, after he had served seven years of a twenty year sentence for armed robbery in the Missouri State Penitentiary at Jefferson City, James Earl Ray escaped. When a truck appeared at the prison bakery where Ray worked, a bread box was carried onto the truck to be delivered to a nearby prison farm. Ray had concealed himself inside the bread box, and later fled from the prison truck at a stop prior to its reaching the Renz prison farm. (3503; Huie, pp.24-27.) <sup>\*/</sup> April 23, 1967

Ray allegedly headed first toward Kansas City (Huie, p.27). On the third day he burglarized a trailer sitting by the Missouri River taking a blanket and food (Huie, p.27). For the next three nights he made his way along the railroad in the direction of Kansas City April 24-28

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<sup>\*/</sup> Ray has provided varying accounts of his escape from prison and of his subsequent activities prior to apprehension. The task force's most credible view of his statements has been used here. These admissions of Ray are found in He Slew the Dreamer, Huie, William Bradford, Delacorte Press, New York, 1968 (hereinafter, Huie); All other citations herein are for serials in the Bureau's MURKIN file, HQ 44-38861. The task force has obtained xerox copies of Ray's correspondence with Mr. Huie which reflect the admissions cited by Huie.

to a city large enough so he would not be noticed and took a train to St. Louis. He then took a taxicab to East St. Louis, called a friend who drove him to Edwardsville whence he caught a bus for Chicago (Huie, p.28).

On May 3rd, Ray secured work for the next eight weeks as a dishwasher and cook's helper at the Indian Trail Restaurant in Winnetka, Illinois, and resided at 2731 North Sheffield in Chicago under the name John L. Rayns. He purchased a 1959 Chrysler automobile from a private owner on June 5th for \$200 (5448). On June 9th, he failed a driver's test, but passed the test on June 12th (5394). Ray moved from his Sheffield address to 1648 Lunt Street on June 17th where he paid one week's rent (5118). Ray was issued a driver's permit in the name of John L. Rayns for the State of Illinois on June 21st (5394). During the week of June 19th Ray left his job, and requested that his final paycheck be forwarded to the Lunt Street address, which it was (5118).

Thereafter, on July 14, Ray purchased a 1962 Plymouth automobile from a commercial dealer in East St. Louis, Illinois, and transferred the licensed plates from the Chrysler to the Plymouth (5413; Huie, p.39). Leaving East St. Louis on July 15, Ray proceeded

to Montreal, Canada, via Indianapolis, Detroit and Windsor (Huie, p.40). His prime objective was allegedly to secure a Canadian passport (idem p.41). As John L. Rayns, he registered for an overnight stay at the Bourgard Motel in Dorion, just west of Montreal (idem, p.43; 5437x). July 15

Next, Ray first used the alias Eric S. Galt when he signed a six month lease for an apartment in the Harkay Apartments, 2589 Notre Dame East, in Montreal (2192; Huie, p.43). Ray then allegedly held up a food store stealing \$1700 (Huie, p.47). July 19

The following day he spent \$300 for new clothes at the Tip Top Tailors, 488 St. Catherine West, had his hair cut and a manicure at the Queen Elizabeth Hotel (Huie, p.48). He also ordered on July 21st a \$75 tailor-made suit at the English and Scotch Woolen Company (4692). (A month and a half later, by a letter from Birmingham dated September 6, 1967, this tailoring company was instructed by Ray to send the finished garment to him at his then Birmingham address.) Three days later Ray July 24

ordered three sex books from Futura Books, Inc., in Inglewood, California, (2192), and on July 28th, he July 28 enrolled in a correspondence course at the Locksmithing Institute, Little Falls, New Jersey (2068). Both matters were paid by Canadian money orders.

Ray vacationed, beginning July 30th, at the Gray Rocks Inn on Lake Ouimet in the Laurentian Mountains seeking, according to Ray, contact with a respectable woman to vouch for him on a passport application. He was "picked up" by a female Canadian Government employee and her girlfriend and spent the next few days with them before leaving on August 7th; The two women followed, stayed overnight with Ray in Montreal on August 7th, and then returned to their residences in Ottawa (Huie, pp.51-53; 5402). On August 9th, he purchased by money order a formula for making glass for a two-way mirror (2192). Then, on August 19th, Ray visited the government employee in Ottawa, but did not importune her to assist him on his passport application (Huie, p.54).

July 30-  
August 5

August 7

August 9

August 19

During the approximately two and one-half months of Ray's stay in Canada he relates meeting an underworld character named "Raoul". After negotiations, Ray stated to author Huie, that he engaged in smuggling operations with "Raoul" and then proceeded to Birmingham to meet "Raoul" at the latter's direction. Meanwhile, he stayed at the Town and Country Motel, Ottawa, from August 18th to August 20th (5502). Whatever may be

"Raoul"  
contact  
dates July 18-  
Aug. 8 & through  
Aug. 18

Aug. 18-20

the truth of the story, Ray left Montreal, met his brother at Northbrooke, Illinois, gave his Plymouth car to his brother Jerry Ryan, (5413), proceeded from Northbrooke or Chicago to Birmingham, stayed August 26th at the Granada Hotel, 2230 Fourth Avenue as John L. Rayns (5400; Huie, p.61), and that same day also took a room in the name Eric S. Galt at the Economy Rooms, 2608 Highland Avenue (2324). Two days later Ray, as Galt, giving the Highland Avenue address, rented safety deposit box No. 5517 at the Main Office, Birmingham Trust National Bank (2323; Huie, p.62). The access record on this box shows entries at 2:32p.m. on August 28; from 1:52p.m. to 1:56p.m. on September 5; from 11:05 to 11:08a.m. on September 21; and from 10:16a.m. to 10:19a.m. on September 28 (2323).

August 26

August 28

The purchase of a white 1966 Ford Mustang was accomplished at the end of August by answering a newspaper ad on the 29th of August and paying \$1995 in cash to William D. Paisley on the 30th (628). All this checks with the car purchase chronology Ray himself admitted to author William Bradford Huie (Huie, pp.61-63; Ray's self-serving attribution of "Raoul" as the one who directed him to buy the car and who supplied the cash is uncorroborated).

August 29-30

Ray as Eric Starvo Galt, applied for and was issued Alabama driver's license No.2848947 (4143).

September 6

The signature matches the other handwritings of the same name (4143). At some point during his stay in Birmingham, Ray purchased a .38 revolver which was found on his person on his arrest in Heathrow Airport, London, England (1422).

On September 12th, Ray enrolled for 5 weekly dance classes at the Continental Dance Club Studios (2324).

September 12

The Modern Photographic Book Publishing Co. Inc., of New York City received a coupon order from Eric S. Galt for a photo book (633) and a letter by Ray as Galt written September 26, asking that the book not be sent as he was moving and would give the changed address later (4143). The handwriting was identical with Ray's (4143).

September 26

Ray purchased a bank draft from the Exchange Security Bank, 5 points' South Branch, Birmingham payable to the Superior Bulk Film Co. of Chicago and this accompanied an order on that company for a Kodak Super 8 movie camera, a projector, a splicer and a 20 foot remote control cable; price \$337.24 (1135). Then Ray typed a note to the film company seven days

September 28

later in which he acknowledged receipt of the items he had ordered but returned the movie camera as the wrong one; he stated he was leaving for Mexico on October 7, and would send a new address to which the correct movie camera could be forwarded (4143). On September 30th, Ray paid only for his room (2118).

Ray, as Galt, was issued Alabama license tags No.1-38993 for 1968. He left Birmingham for Mexico on October 6 (Huie, p.66). On the 8th of October, Ray purchased a 30 day Mexican auto insurance policy (1904). He reached Acapulco on October 10th, proceeded to Guadalajara on October 15th and left there on the 18th for Puerto Vallarta, Jalisco, Mexico, arriving in Puerto Vallarta on the 19th (5496). He registered in Room 212 of the Hotel Rio at Morelos 86 on this date; his "Galt" signature and writings match his other Galt writings (4143). Galt typed a letter to the film company to ask for a refund to the Puerto Vallarta address in lieu of the Kodak movie camera which had been mailed meanwhile to his vacated Birmingham address (4143). Again the written signature on this note matched the string of "Galt" signatures. (4143). For some reason (Huie says Ray said he wanted	October 6 October 8 October 10 October 15 October 18 October 19 October 22 November 6-13
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a week in a more expensive room in a hotel on the beach.) (Huie, p.81), Ray switched hotels, going from the Rio to the Hotel Tropicana (1219). He spent most of his time in the period from October 19 to November 13, 1967, with a girlfriend, Irma Morales, whose true name is Manuela Aguirre Medrano (1219), and possibly another female named Nina (Huie, p.8).

Ray left Puerto Vallarta and drove to Los Angeles where he rented an apartment at 1535 North Serrano Avenue on the 19th of November. (668; Huie, p.85). He then wrote a typed letter to the Superior Bulk Film Company, Chicago, to forward to his new address the refund due him for the undelivered Kodak movie camera; the signature on this letter matches the other "Galt" signatures. (4143).

In this second week of his stay in Los Angeles, Ray began a series of six visits to a clinical psychologist, Dr. Mark O. Freeman, in hopes of overcoming his shyness, gaining social confidence, learning self-hypnosis to gain relaxation, sleep and remember things better.

November 14

November 19

November 27

December 14

November 27

November 30

December 4,  
6, 11, & 14



Apparently, in a further self-improvement step, Ray enrolled in a course of dancing instructions with the owner of the National Dance Studio, 2026 Pacific Avenue, Long Beach, California (4143). On December 13th, Ray wrote his Birmingham bank to close his safety deposit box (2323). He paid \$100 on the dancing lesson contract on the 14th of December, left laundry at the Avalon Cleaners & Laundry, Inc., 5662, Hollywood Blvd., Los Angeles, on the following day-ticket No.31053 and laundry mark "20R-3" made by a Thermo Seal marking machine (4143); and also on December 15th Ray, as Galt still, began a round trip drive with Charles J. Stein, 5666 Franklin Avenue, Los Angeles, to New Orleans in Ray's white Mustang to pick up Stein's sister's two small children (4143). Stein and Ray arrived in New Orleans on the 17th, the latter registering at the Provincial Hotel, 1024 Chartes Street, Room 126 (5399). The "Galt" registration card signature matched the string of such signatures in Ray's odyssey and he further recorded that he was driving a Mustang with Alabama license No.1-38993 and gave his address as 2608 Highland Avenue, Birmingham (4143).

December 5

December 13

December 14

December 15

December 17

Ray checked out before the 1:00p.m. checkout time on the 19th and, with the two children and Charles Stein, made the return trip to Los Angeles arriving by the 21st of December when he took the first of the series of dancing lessons he had signed up for. The next day he picked up his laundry. Four more dancing lessons are recorded next (4143).

December 19

December 21

December 22

December 25,  
26,27&28

On December 28, 1967, Ray first indicated his interest in immigrating to Africa, and more particularly to a white ruled area, by writing a letter of inquiry to Mr. John Acord, Chairman, American-Southern African Council, 800 Fourth St., S.W., Washington, D.C.; the signature of Galt matched up with the other Galt writings. (4143).

Ray said he visited Las Vegas on New Year's Day. (Huie, p.96). Dance lessons are documented on the 2nd and 3rd days of 1968 (2325). Galt bought Bank of America money order No.0799 18037 in the amount of \$15 from the Hollywood Western Branch payable to the Locksmithing Institute (2325). The FBI lab made the usual writing match up on the signature (4143). Meanwhile Ray showed up regularly for dance lessons (2325). On January 19th Ray signed

1968  
January 1,2&3

January 8

January 9,11,15,  
16&18

up for a bartending course at the International School of Bartending 2125 Sunset Boulevard (2325); his application signature fits his other Galt signatures (4143). He left his laundry at the Home Service Laundry and Dry Cleaning Co. at 5280 Hollywood Boulevard (2325, cites laundry list No.3065 in E. Galt's name with Thermo Seal sticker 02B-6, the marking on the T-shirt and shorts in the bag abandoned at the front door of Canipe's Amusement Co. in Memphis, April 4, 1968).

On January 21, 1968, Ray changed his lodgings to Room 403 of the St. Francis Hotel, 5533 Hollywood Boulevard (2325). On the 22nd and on the 23rd, 25th, 29th, 30th, 31st, February 1, 5, 6, 8 and 12, Ray regularly attended dance lessons (2325). He attended bartending school through to March 2, 1968. He bought January 29 two Bank of America money orders on the 29th of January, one to place an ad in the Free Press soliciting a female pen pal and the second to pay for a mail forwarding service (1500). Each transaction created a handwriting match as did a Bank of America money order No.0799 17281 payable to the Locksmithing Institute, January 31 Little Falls, New Jersey (2325).

Ray's 1966 white Mustang with Alabama license No.1-38993 registered in Alabama under the alias Galt was serviced on the 13th at a Chevron Station, 1506 North Normandic Avenue, Los Angeles with mileage at 34,185. Another undated servicing some 200 miles later occurred at Cort Fox Ford Co., 4531 Hollywood Boulevard in Los Angeles (2325).

Ray attempted to increase his social life by writing and sending his photograph to a woman listed by "The Local Swinger" which listing was secured for \$1.00; Ray in fact wrote 5 such letters (4143). The Galt signature was added to the FBI's matchups and Ray's photograph secured. For reading material, Ray ordered books from Futura Books paying by money order No.0799 19430 on the 26th. (1500). The signature matchup was made (4143). On this same day Ray made a money order payment No.0799 19701 to the Locksmithing Institute (2325). He sent another, No.0799 19704, for the "Locksmith's Ledger" with matching signature (2325); he sent two money orders, Nos.0799 19702 and 0799 19703, and a letter order to Tiffany Enterprises, 8512 Whitworth Drive in Los Angeles, a mail order house, for one pair of Japanese handcuffs (1500), with signatures matchable on two of the three documents (4143).

February 17

February 26

At intervals in his stay in Los Angeles, Ray had plastic surgery done to change his appearance (author Huie puts this treatment as on March 3, 7 and 11, 1968, Huie, pp.107-8); he visited a psychologist-hypnotist, Reverend Von Koss on January 4, 1968 (Huie, p.102), and allegedly some seven other psychiatrists, hypnotists or scientologists.

According to author Huie, he frequented a bar known as the Rabbit's Foot Club and on one night became involved in a racial argument followed by a mugging in which he had his wallet stolen and lost his suit jacket, car keys and driver's license (Huie, p.96-98). According to author Huie citing Ray as his source, Ray telephoned Alabama and had a duplicate license issued; this was forwarded from his former Birmingham address to California and received there about March 10, 1968 (Huie, p.98).

"Galt" was graduated from the bartending school on the 2nd of March. His picture was taken with the school operator and Ray closed his eyes to make recognition more difficult (4143; Huie, p.104). March 2

A postal money order No.1,916,211,078 was sent to the Locksmithing Institute as a periodic payment on the correspondence course Ray was taking (1428). The signature matchup was made. (4143.) March 8

Ray listed a change of address on March 17 with the St. Francis Hotel, giving his forwarding address as General Delivery, Main Post Office Atlanta, Georgia (4143). Presumably he left Los Angeles in his white Mustang on this date, proceeding to New Orleans where he left a box of clothing for Marie Martin's little daughter, Marian de Grasse, at Charles Stein's cousin Theresa Stone's residence, 4019 Royal Street (4143; Huie, p. 108).

From New Orleans, Ray drove to Selma, Alabama March 22 (5502), (where Ray began to stalk Dr. King according to Huie's statement of Ray's admission on this) and, March 23 after an overnight stay there, he went on to Montgomery, March 24 to Birmingham and finally to Atlanta, Georgia (Huie, p. 112).

In Atlanta, Ray rented room No.2 in a rooming house at 113-14th Street, N.E. from the operator, Jimmy Delton Garner (1033). He stayed there until March 28 on which day, while still in Atlanta, he purchased U.S. Postal money order No.5,615,057,923 payable to the Locksmithing Institute (1428). The Galt signature was a matchup (4143). March 24

On the 29th Ray appeared at the Aeromarine Supply Company, 5701 Airport Highway in Birmingham, Alabama, and using the alias Harvey Lowmyer purchased a Remington .243 caliber rifle, Model 700 with a 2x-7x Redfield telescopic sight mounted on it (432). Almost certainly because the breech of the .243 caliber weapon was caked with a hardened preservative (cosmoline) and could not be loaded, Ray returned it the following day (not having fired it). He explained that his "brother" didn't like it, and exchanged the .243 rifle for a Model 760, 30-06 caliber Remington. The scope was transferred to the latter rifle. Throughout these transactions the package for either rifle was a Browning shotgun carton which was large enough to hold the scope-equipped Remingtons (432).

March 29

March 30

The Atlanta rooming house operator, Jimmy Delton Garner stated he had Ray print his name (Eric S. Galt) on an old envelope at Garner's request so that Garner could transfer the name properly to his official records; the handprinting is a matchup with other Galt-Ray printing samples (1033).

March 31

Using the name Eric Galt, Ray left his laundry and dry cleaning at the Piedmont Laundry pickup station, 1168 Peachtree, N.W. in Atlanta (4143). Two

April 1

days later, as Eric S. Galt, Ray on April 3 registered into Room 34 at the Rebel Motor Hotel, 3466 Lamar Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee (the distance between Atlanta and Memphis by the most convenient route is 398 miles);

April 3

he gave 2608 Highland Avenue, Birmingham as his address and he noted on the registration card that he was driving a Mustang with Alabama license No. 1-38993 (4143). His signature was a match to the other identified Galt signatures (4143). On this same day, Ray purchased a safety razor and shaving supplies at the Rexall Drug Store in the Whitehaven suburb of Memphis (Memphis 44-1987 Sub A-Sec. 1; Huie, p.129).

April 3

Ray left the Rebel Motel before the 1p.m. checkout time on April 4th (4143). At some point between 3p.m. and 3:30p.m. on the 4th, a man generally answering Ray's description rented Room 5-B at 422 1/2 South Main Street, Memphis, in the name of John Willard (idem. 33). Ray admits to having been in the room with "Raoul" whom he first said rented the room using the "Willard" alias he, Ray, supplied (Huie, p.115). In another letter to Huie, Ray states he himself

April 4

3-3:30p.m.

4:00p.m.



Mustang after dropping Ray's bag, the rifle Ray bought and bearing only his fingerprints and the bedspread which Ray admits taking up to Room 5-B (Staff reenactment; Huie, p.115). According to a post-conviction statement by Ray to then Special Agent in Charge of the Memphis Field Office, Robert Jensen, roomer Charles Stephens had a good look at Ray in the rooming house (5622; Interview of Robert Jensen, July 7, 1976, App. B).

On the street Guy Warren Canipe, Jr., in his place of business, Canipe Amusement Co., at 424 South Main Street heard a thud near the front door of his store, looked up to see a white male walk rapidly past his store going south (right to left to someone inside the store) and, with the two customers in his store, went to the front door where they observed a small white car, a Mustang 6:04p.m. according to the two customers, pull away going north (left to right) from a curb side parking place just south of Canipe's store (Memphis 44-1987 Sub A-Sec.1; cf. Huie, p.131).

According to Ray's admission to author Huie, Ray April 4, 1968 drove south into Mississippi and then turned east through Birmingham reaching Atlanta about 6a.m. on April 5th April 5, 1968 (Huie, p.132). He abandoned the white Mustang. On the

table in the room at the Atlanta rooming house, he left a letter about South Africa from the John Birch Society in California and a copy of the Free Press from Los Angeles to divert the FBI's attention to California while he fled to Canada (Huie, p.133). Ray picked up his laundry at the Piedmont Laundry pick-up station at 1168 Peachtree N.E. in Atlanta on the 5th of April (4697). He then took a bus departing Atlanta just after noon on the 5th and arrived in Cincinnati at about 1:30a.m. on the 6th of April. After a one hour layover which he stated he spent in a tavern near the bus depot, Ray continued by bus to Detroit where he arrived at about 8a.m. (Huie, p.135). He crossed by taxi into Canada arriving in Windsor an hour or so before noon and proceeded from there to Toronto by train arriving at about 5:00p.m. (Huie, p.135). He rented a room at 102 Ossington Avenue without giving his name (5502; Huie, p.135).

On the 8th of April Ray began the process of securing a Canadian passport. He picked two names, Paul Edward Bridgman and Ramon George Sneyd, from the announcements of births in newspapers for the year 1932 at the public library (Huie, p.137). He made an

April 5,  
1968  
between  
9:00a.m. &  
10:00a.m.

approx.  
1:00p.m.

April 6,  
1968  
1:30a.m.  
2:30a.m.  
between 10  
and 11a.m.

approx.  
5p.m.

approx.  
6p.m.

April 8,  
1968

April 10,  
1968

application for a duplicate birth certificate in each of these names on April 10 and on the following day had a passport picture taken in the name of Bridgman and then to provide a separate mailing address for the expected replies as to Sneyd, he rented a room at 962 Dundas Street in the name of Sneyd on April 16th (5502; Huie, p.141). On the same day he executed an application in the name Paul Bridgman with his, Ray's 102 Ossington Avenue address as the person to be notified in case of emergency (Huie, p.143). The Kennedy Travel Agency of Toronto handled the processing of the application for Ray (5502). On the 19th Ray moved to the Dundas Street address (5502).

April 11,  
1968

April 16,  
1968

April 19,  
1968

The fingerprints of "Eric S. Galt" were found to be a match with those of James Earl Ray after a search of the print file on Fugitive Felons.

April 19,  
1968

According to author Huie he gleaned from Ray that Ray visited four bars on the 21st in order to watch the TV show "The FBI" (Huie, p.147). He found the show tuned in at the fourth place he tried and learned that he had made the Ten Most Wanted List with an international "look-out" as to Ray (Huie, p.147). He checked out of the Ossington Avenue room on the 19th (Huie, p.147).

On April 24 the Canadian passport in the name of Ramon George Sneya was issued to Ray (Huie, p.148). Ray purchased a round trip ticket to London and departed on May 6, 1968 (Huie, p.149). From London Ray took a plane to Lisbon where he spent 10 days looking for a passage to Angola (Huie, p.150). When he was unable to do so he returned to London after first getting his passport replaced at the Canadian Embassy in Lisbon to correct the spelling of the name Sneyd (instead of Sneya) (5502; Huie, p.150).

April 24,  
1968

May 6,  
1968

May 16,  
1968

Ray returned to London and spent his time trying to find a way to join a mercenary force (Huie, p.150). To this end he bought a plane ticket to Brussels and was in the process of meeting his plane at the Heathrow Airport when he was apprehended on June 8, 1968, by detectives from New Scotland Yard (4346,4368; Huie, p.150-151). The arrest was made on the basis of use of a fraudulent passport and carrying a concealed weapon, i.e., the loaded .38 caliber Japanese-make revolver found on his person at Heathrow (4346,4368; Huie, p.151).

May 17,  
1968

June 8,  
1968

This chronology has been compiled from data in FBI reports and Ray's letters to author William Bradford Huie. It was hoped by the task force that we would have an

opportunity to go over the facts with James Earl Ray himself. Accordingly, after the United States Supreme Court denied his petition for a writ of certiorari, on December 13, 1976, a verbal request was made to Ray's Attorney, James H. Lesar, for an opportunity to interview Ray. Lesar stated that he was writing Ray a letter that day and would advise him of our desire to interview him and leave the matter up to him (Interview of James H. Lesar, December 14, 1976, App. B). Also, the task force sent Ray a letter on December 15, 1976, via his attorney requesting an interview (See letter to James Earl Ray, December 15, 1976, App. A, Ex.14). While no answer to our letter was received, Ray sent the task force a copy of a letter addressed to his attorney. Ray attached a copy of a complaint he recently filed in a civil action and stated in the letter to his attorney that: "I agree with your advice opposing the interview. It would appear that this would only be in the interest of the J.D. and their book writing collaborators, e.g., Gerold Frank, George McMillian, et al." (See letter to James H. Lesar, December 20, 1976, App. A, Ex.15).

Absent a statement to us from Ray, four existing Ray explanations were compared and are here briefly noted.

Second, Ray related in writing to author Huie a story of his odyssey from Missouri State Prison to Memphis which acknowledged that he bought the murder weapon, made his way to Memphis, rented the room there at 422 South Main on April 4, 1968, using the alias "John Willard," waited in the white Mustang, and drove "Raoul" away from the crime scene after the murder wholly unaware of the killing of Dr. King. In this version "Raoul", or "Roual", is the mysterious killer whom Ray thought to be an international gun-runner; Ray bought the murder weapon for "Raoul" thinking it was to be displayed to prospective Mexican buyers in Room 5-B of the "flop house" on South Main Street (Huie, p.130-131).

Third, in a statement read on a program of Station KMOX-TV St. Louis, Missouri, in August of 1969 by his brother Jerry, James Earl Ray was quoted as alleging that he was the innocent victim, "the fall guy" of a scheme by the FBI (Memphis 44-1987 Sub M-665). This description of the crime contains no reference to Raoul.

Fourth, the most recent story available to the task force is reported as the result of a four hour interview by Wayne Chastain, Jr., for the Pacific News Service, October 20, 1974. It is to the effect that Ray was "set up

as a patsy" for "Raoul." It proceeds along the same lines as the tale told by Ray to author Huie that there was to be a meeting at the rooming house at 6p.m. with an international gun runner. Ray was instructed by Raoul to have the white Mustang at the curb for "Raoul's" use that evening. Ray, however, drove away from the area at about 6:00p.m. to get air in a low tire and found police swarming all over the place when he tried to return at 7:05p.m. He could not park, was turned back by police and learned only after driving 100 miles into Mississippi that he had been associated with the men who killed Dr. King (The Assassinations, Dallas and Beyond, Edited by Peter Dale Scott, Paul L. Hock and Russell Stetler, Random House, 1976, pp.315-317).

The task force views the exculpatory content of these varying and patently self-serving tales to be unbelievable. The varying details are materially self-refuting. Ray first admits full guilt. He then says he waited innocently at the curb and took off after the shot with "Raoul" as a passenger. He next says he was the catspaw of the FBI. And finally, he and the Mustang were not in the area when the shot was fired and he never saw "Raoul" after the event.

The eye witnesses to the "get away", saw only one man who resembled Ray. The man left in a hurry in a white Mustang as Ray admitted doing in version number two. We concluded Ray was lying about the existence of a "Raoul".

Ray's stipulated judicial confession comports in detail with the facts disclosed by the investigation and the failure of the self-serving stories persuasively undermines the likelihood of any conspiracy.